

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic device network system comprising:
an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;
a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device;
a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data; and
a setting section for setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, the set security level being selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels,
the network connecting the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices to one another,
wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each have a security function and an associated security level.
2. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the plurality of storing means includes a first storing means having a first security level, and a second storing means having a second security level, the first security level being higher than the second security level,
the electronic device network system further comprises a search means for searching the plurality of storing means to identify a given storing means whose security level corresponds to the security level set in the setting section, so that the transmitted data corresponding to the set security level is received by the given storing means.

3. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means transmits data by encrypting the data, and the second storing means transmits data without encrypting the data.

4. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means is connected to the Internet via a firewall that limits access from devices on the Internet, and the second storing means is connected to the Internet without the firewall.

5. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means does not have access to the Internet, and the second storing means have access to the Internet.

6. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each have a communications function for encrypted data.

7. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising search means for searching for an electronic device, a storing means, and an external device according to the respective associated security level of the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices.

8. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising search means for searching for an external device according to locations or functions of the external devices.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the search means further includes means for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

10. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the search means further includes means for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of external devices includes a search section for searching for a storing means whose associated security level matches the associated security level of one of the plurality of external devices which is making such a search. .

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the electronic device includes a displaying means for displaying a result of search made by a search means according to search conditions.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the respective associated security level of the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices is further established based on whether the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices belong to which of a plurality of networks that are connected to one another via access control means.

14. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the external devices comprises an image forming device.

15. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

16. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

17. (Previously Presented) A data receiver search system comprising:
a plurality of storing means for storing data, each storing means having a different security level associated therewith;

a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data;

an electronic device connected to the storing means and the external devices via a network;

a search device being connected to the electronic device;

wherein the electronic device includes:

a transmission section for transmitting data to the storing means, and

a setting section for setting a security level, selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels, for the data to be transmitted;

wherein the search device includes a search section for searching the plurality of storing means to identify a given storing means whose respective associated security level corresponds to the set security level set in the setting section, so that the transmitted data corresponding to the set security level is received by the given storing means.

18. (Previously Presented) A data receiver search method using an electronic device network system that comprises:

- an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;

- a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device; and

- a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data,

- the network connecting the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices to one another, and

- the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each having a security function and an associated security level; and

wherein said data receiver search method includes the steps of:

- (a) setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, the set security level being selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels;

- (b) searching for a given storing means and a given external device whose respective associated security level match the security level set in step (a) when the electronic device transmits data.

19. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said searching includes searching for an external device according to a location or functions of the external device.

20. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said searching includes searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

21. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

prohibiting transmission of data from the electronic device or from the storing means when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices do not match the desired security level as established by the user; and

allowing transmission of data from the given storing means to the given external device when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices match the desired security level.

22. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 21, wherein when stored data in a storing means needs to be outputted from an external device and the external device and the storing means storing the stored data have different associated security levels so that the stored data is prevented from being transmitted from the storing means to the external device, said data receiver search method further comprises the step of:

repeating said step of searching to identify another given external device whose associated security level matches the associated security level of the storing means storing the stored data.